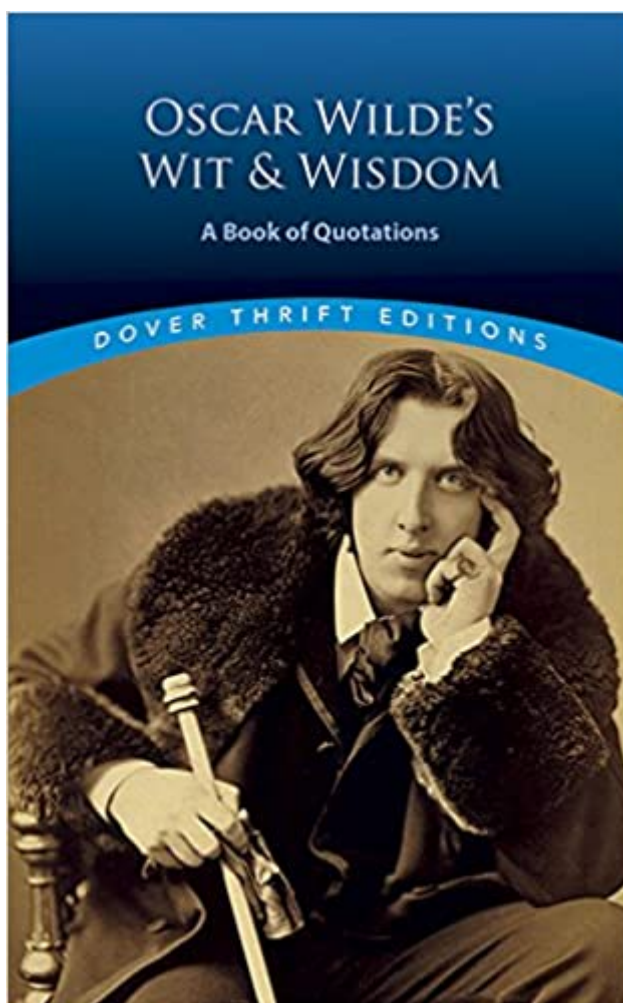


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Oscar Wilde's Wit And Wisdom: A Book Of Quotations (Dover Thrift Editions)



Synopsis

"I have the simplest tastes," remarked Oscar Wilde. "I am always satisfied with the best." In this superlative collection of quotations by the great Irish playwright and wit, readers will find the very best of Wilde's scintillating comments on art, human nature, morals, society, politics, history, and numerous other subjects. Epigrams, aphorisms, and other bon mots gleaned from Wilde's enduringly popular plays, essays, and conversation offer amusing, thought-provoking observations that resonate with truth and profundity beneath their comic surface. Widely acknowledged as the most brilliant talker of his age, Wilde once explained to André Gide, "I put all my genius into my life; I put only my talent into my works." This fine collection of nearly 400 quotes, organized by category, contains quotations from both his works and his conversation, including gems from his personal life with which even devotees may be unfamiliar. The result is a splendid introduction to Wilde's mind and personality, embodied in a feast of the English language's most brilliant and perceptive witticisms.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Dover goes Wilde with these two fine additions to its line of bargain titles. *Lady Windermere* is a typical Wilde farce; the latter volume is simply a collection of his best lines. Copyright 1999 Reed Business Information, Inc.

Oscar Wilde stands alone. He may have promoted himself, as he should have done because he

had a lot of wisdom to share. It has come to my attention that people prefer to judge any Author by their lives rather than listen/read their wisdom. My advice is to ignore all the yap, yap, yap about who wrote what and why and just READ the writings. For some reason the silly "check the blanks" offered by and/or other organizations is to be ignored. Perhaps it is the attempt to give people who are obsessed with judging some statistics to justify their heart felt censorship if some writings goes against their own shallow conceptions and beliefs. It does make me question the next BOOK BURNING - and witch burning, as well.

Oscar Wilde, for all his wit and wisdom was a man unable to survive his abbreviated lifetime. A married Gay man representing himself publicly as straight (not a word so commonly used to represent sexuality in the 19th Century) was eventually drawn into the courts of Great Britain surprising Wilde beyond his comprehension. His self-interests were not legally appreciated in the U.K. at that time resulting in his imprisonment. Wilde was witty, brave, and held much contempt for those who could not possibly understand the lifestyles of those who were so easily discriminated against and so swiftly thrust into jail. The Oscar Wilde depicted through his wit and wisdom is how I am certain he wanted to be remembered. Writing and dying under an assumed name, Sebastian Melmoth was nothing of the outcome he would have expected. I believe, however, and to his satisfaction, he presents himself to us as we know him: a great and clever author and poet.

The market for this book depends mainly on two factors, it is cheap (probably out of copyright) and has a niche. This was my third or fourth copy, I keep one handy to look up quotations and give or lend them out. If you have never read Wilde, get this small volume and read it in very small bits. You can't be faulted for wasting time reading Oscar Wilde and if you get a couple of cool quotes to impress your friends, you have gotten your money's worth. If you like it, there is plenty more of Wilde to read later. If you are like me (old as dirt) and have a habit of giving or lending books to a younger generation I recommend buying several copies at this price. You'll run out of them eventually. In your grandfather's time, not knowing Oscar Wilde was a sign of intellectual illiteracy. Not so much now, but still a good reason to be acquainted with his work. Besides, why pass up a chance to be a bibliophile snob on the cheap?

I'm a huge Oscar Wilde fan. This collection is a delight. What's not to love when you have a pocketful of his nuggets like: "No man is rich enough to buy back his past." -An Ideal Husband. or "Rich Bachelors should be taxed. It's not fair that some men should be happier than others." - In

Conversation. Get it. Sip a little with your tea. ;-)

reading it from time to time

good humor

Great stuff

Wilde takes no prisoners with his funny and biting comments on society. He buries right into the heart of humanity's absurdities and lays them bare them with courage, humor, and poignancy.

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